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A

DIALOGUE

OCCASION'D BY

Miss *F . . d ' s*

LETTER,

ADDRESSED TO A

Person of Distinction.

L O N D O N :

Printed in the YEAR M.D.CC.LXI.

DIALOGUE

Occasioned by

Mrs. F. - - -

LETTER



Addressed to

Person of Distinction.

LONDON:

Printed in the Year 1800.



A

DIALOGUE

BETWEEN

Lady REMNANT, Mr. ALLSWORTHY,
and Miss CHATTERBOX.

Lady Remnant.

PRAY Mr. *Allsworthy*, have you read
Miss F——d's Letter? I have this
Minute gone through it, and should be glad
to hear the Sentiments of a Man of your good
Understanding, now we have seen her own

B

Story;

Story ; a Circumstance I have long wished for.

Miss *Chatterbox*. Circumstance me no Circumstance ; I am out of all Patience to hear you talk *serus* about such a *Mislethroe*, a little affected Puss ; I think she ought to be whipt at the Cart's Ass, for *purtending* to treat a Man of Quality so basely ; he did her too much Honour ; and then to call him old ; I am sure I know his Age to a Day ; we were Children together, but ———

Mr. *Allsworthy*. Give me Leave, dear Miss *Chatterbox*, to reply to good Lady *Remnant*: Your Ladyship does me great Honour, and I shou'd be happy to go through the Consideration of her Story with a Lady of your good Sense.



Lady

Lady Remnant. Proceed then, dear Sir, to give me your real Sentiments without Partiality; I know she was once your Acquaintance, and that you were disposed to favour her then; but I now take the Liberty to ask your candid Opinion, founded on the Story she has told herself?

Mr. Allsworthy. I have read her Letter with Attention; some Part of her Story is certainly very serious; but as she has stopt sometimes to laugh, let us follow her Example, and laugh at what is laughable; censure what is wrong; approve what is right; and, on the Whole, consider what Judgment an impartial Person ought to pass, on reading the Account she has given us.

Lady Remnant. Why then, dear Sir, let me only observe to you, that she pretends to
bespeak

bespeak the Compassion of the Town :
 What for ? What Right has she to appeal to
 the Public ? She says, a Man of Fashion of-
 fer'd her Eight Hundred Pounds a Year, to
 be his Mistress, and gave her to understand
 she might one Day be his Wife ; he cried
 to her, I---d to her, and used every Art that
 your Sex are so well versed in to betray
 ours : She avows she was no Stranger to his
 Errand, yet she received his Visits, cultiva-
 ted his Acquaintance, honoured, esteemed,
 and pitied him.

Miss Chatterbox. It is true, Lady Remnant,
 I am certain Mr. Allsworthy can't pretend to
 justify her. She always was an insufferable
 Girl, and thought because she play'd a little
 upon the *Musicks*, that she could by ging-
 ling the Keys of a *Harpsicall*, get the Qua-
 lity about her, like Boys round a Parish
 Bell-man.

Mr.

Mr. *Allworthy*. I grant what your Lady-
 ship observes is a striking Blot in her Narra-
 tion ; but she could not have acknowledged
 such Circumstances against herself, without
 seeing they were so ; and this convinces me
 the Tale is told by herself ; told without
 the least Guile, and with a strict Regard to
 Truth ; for otherwise, she would not have
 exhibited Charges against herself, that she
 might have concealed. The Letter it must
 be allowed is wrote with some Spirit, and
 must have been wrote by herself, for no
 Person she could have employed to write it,
 possessed with the Degree of Understanding
 the Author has, but would have advised her
 to suppress every Circumstance that tended to
 her own Disadvantage : These Considerations
 determine me to believe her Tale is strictly
 true, and past all Doubt, told by herself. I

differ

differ greatly from your Ladyship's Opinion, with Respect to her appealing to the Public. She has an undoubted Right so to do : She has thrown herself on the Public ; her only Dependance and Support, is from the Public ; and if she has been injured in private, and the Public have been prejudiced against her by private Insinuations, her Conduct is certainly in that Respect, quite justifiable. She has told you, that a certain Person, Master of all the Arts of Love, deluded her Senses, and made her believe he had the strongest, and inviolable Friendship for her ; but that there was unfortunately annexed to it, a Passion, that under his Circumstances was criminal ; he told her he could not help it, cried, offer'd her a large Settlement, and his Hand when Providence should enable him . On the other Hand, she was not without such Encouragement, that few young

young Women would not think quite warrantable ; told every Day, perhaps, what a great Lady she might be, advised to act cautiously, and keep the Flame alive 'till a Circumstance, in Appearance not very remote, happen'd, The Man, she says, was agreeable to her, much above the Rank she could have the least Pretensions to. Confident of his Love, doubtful of a future Provision otherwise, and countenanced by a Lady that saved Appearances, she, with a conscious Innocence from any *real Guilt*, receiv'd his frequent Visits ; and though I am far from saying, ^{her} ~~their~~ Conduct is quite blameless, yet I am inclined to believe, this Age does not produce many young Ladies of small, or no Fortunes, that would not (all Circumstances considered) have done as she did ; if so, I may venture to say, she is not worse than her Neighbours ; and I do not find, by her

own

own Account, she means to be thought better.

Lady Remnant. Indeed, *Mr. Allsworthy*, you have set this Matter in a Light, I could not have conceiv'd, and incline me to think more favourably of her, than I was disposed to on reading her Letter. I do not doubt, the Behaviour of her old Lover being just as she has stated it, and look upon him with that Contempt, that all the World must; but the Reflections on her Kindred, are certainly unwarrantable, and indeed unnatural.

Miss Chatterbox. Reflections, Madam! O Madam! you do not know half what has been whisper'd; she has even said, that a certain Person used to tip her the Velvet, as they call it; a nasty filthy Trick; a Woman serv'd me so once; if it had been a Man, I believe

believe verily I should have knocked him down.

Lady Remnant. But, pray Mr. *Allsworthy*, what do you think of her Behaviour towards her F—— ? He certainly loved her exceedingly, and was at a great Expence in her Education ; and, therefore, her Conduct has been ungrateful and cruel, with Respect to him.

Mr. Allsworthy. I, perhaps, being a Batchelor, am not qualified to speak properly on this Subject ; besides, I am a little singular in my Opinion, with Respect to the Authority of Parents over Children, and Childrens Duty towards their Parents: In the first Place, I consider a Child is produced, not from any Love to the Child, but to the Mother that bears it ; and the Duty

C

and

and Obedience due from the Child to the Parent, ought to be proportion'd to the Care and Attention that the Parent bestows on their Education, and their Morals. It is their Behaviour to each other, that creates that Respect and Duty on one Side, and Love and Affection on the other ; for I am verily perswaded, that if it could be made appear to me, that the good Woman whom I have hitherto loved, honour'd and cherished, in her old Age as my Mother, is not so, nor any Way related to me, and that Miss *Chatterbox* was my real Mother, I should perhaps, not interrupt her in Conversation as I have just done (and for which I humbly ask Pardon) but that I should still retain the same Affection for my good imaginary Mother, and never could feel towards Miss *Chatterbox*, but as a Lady of distinguished Beauty and Merit.

Miss

Miss Chatterbox. Oh, dear Sir, if I were old enough to be your Mama, If I were old enough I say, I could not have been so happy to have experienced the Affection of such a Man as Mr. *Allworthy*. Indeed, Sir——

Lady Remnant. But, pray Mr. *Allworthy*, did the Gentleman we have been speaking of, send Miss F—— a Boar's-Head ? Did it stink ? Or was it a Circumstance added, to ridicule the Odness of the Present ?

Mr. Allworthy. Really, Madam, I cannot resolve you ; your Ladyship is acquainted with Lady G——, and it seems she eat of it, though that would not be sufficient Proof, because I hear she long'd for a Bit of it ; and your Ladyship knows, that some-

times People in that Way, long for very out of the Way, and sometimes nasty Things.

Lady Remnant. No : that is a false Report ; I supped with Lady G—— last Night, and horrid angry she is ; she was much inflamed against the poor Girl before, but her being more so, because the Gentleman has declared she long'd for a Bit of the Boar's-Head, is unreasonable ; but you know she is a Nonsense Woman, and therefore it's not to be wonder'd at. Lady A--- was there, and she supported Lady G----, with all the Rancour imaginable : It's amazing to see how happy every Set of Company you fall into are, when they are unanimous (which is generally the Case) in depreciating their Neighbours.

Mr.

Mr. *Allsworthy*. I have often consider'd this universal Passion, and the only Simile I can make to it is, that each of the Company view the Object in Distress with that Kind of self-feeling Preservation, that we feel, when we behold from the secure Shore, our Fellow-creatures tossed in a tempestuous and dangerous Sea : I hope it does not arise so much from being glad that they are in Danger and Difficulties, but that ourselves are not: Self-love, like Oil in Water, is always uppermost. But to return to our Subject. Your Ladyship has asked my Opinion, and I have given it you already in Part, without Favour or Affection, just as it has struck me ; and before I go, I beg leave to observe further on the whole, that this unfortunate Girl was educated 'till fourteen or fifteen Years of Age, under a
 Mother,

Mother, whose whole married Life was a Scene of Irregularities, &c. ———— and, whose Example in every Respect, was not to be followed. From her Death, 'till she left her Father, an ill-judged Education, and an improper and unpardonable Indulgence, arising from his own Vanity, was given her by him; which Vanity so blinded his Understanding, that he was never happy but when he could let his Daughter out to sing at the Houses of People of Quality, or prevail on them to come to his. I have known this Folly so prevalent in him, that when he has seen a Coach with Supporters on the East-side of *Temple-Bar*, he has ran Home, foolishly imagining it was some Person of Quality going to visit his Daughter. It is true, many People of high Rank did visit her, and so much the worse; it made her look above herself; and her
Situation

Situation in Life ; and when they had gratified their Ears, and their Eyes sufficiently, they did, as they do with every Thing else, drop the Pursuit for some newer Object ; and this was the Beginning of her Wretchedness. Her fashionable Lover destroyed her Chance, of a suitable Match, and these Reflections would naturally lead a sensible Girl to consider, what her future Condition must be : She then asked her Father (as an only Child had a Right to do) to make some certain Settlement on her, or permit her to make some Provision for herself ; he consented to it, on Terms she did not think the most advantageous, and told him so : He then flew out, seized her at Midnight, confined her in his own House, and threaten'd her with perpetual Imprisonment, or a Mad-house ; exhibited Charges against her very improper, and indeed shocking

shocking for a Father not to have endeavoured to stifle, had they been true. She then made her Escape from him, and threw herself on the Public. The Genteelity of her Appearance, and the Propriety of her Behaviour when before the Public, always gain'd her that Applause, that her inimitable Musical Talents justly intitled her to in private. She found herself unable to get the better of that horrid Dread People of good Sense and Diffidence must feel, when they appear before an august Assembly; and therefore has declined giving the Public any farther Occasion to pay their Money to excite Pity, for what they expected to feel much Satisfaction. It must be confessed, she never sang in Public worth hearing, and yet always met with the Approbation of the whole Audience. This, Madam, is what occurs at present to me,
if

if at any Time other Circumstances should arise, I shall be happy to embrace that, or any Occasion, to renew a Conversation with your Ladyship on any Subject, and am happy to leave you in a Disposition to think on our past, in the same Manner I do.

Lady *Remnant*. Mr. *Allsworthy*, good Morning to you, and many Thanks for this Favour.

Miss *Chatterbox*. Good Morning to you, Sir. I am heartily glad he is gone, I never was more tired with a Fool's Bolt in all my Days : I wonder at your Ladyship's Patience ! He is an *odus* Man, and I shall for ever detest him.----Adieu, my dear Lady *Remnant*.

F I N I S.

E R R A T U M.

Page 7, line 14, *for their read her.*

if at any Time other Circumstances should
 arise, I shall be happy to embrace that or
 any Occasion, to renew a Conversation
 with your Ladyship on any Subject, and
 am happy to leave you in a Disposition to
 think on our part, in the same Manner
 I do.

My Lady Remains, Mr. Almon, good
 Morning to you, and many Thanks for
 this Favour.

My Lady Remains, Good Morning to you
 Sir, I am heartily glad he is gone, I never
 was more tired with a Fool's Bolt in all my
 Days: I wonder at your Ladyship's Pa-
 tience! He is an odd Man, and I shall for-
 ever delect him. --- Adieu, my dear Lady

Remains.



P. M. I. 3

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if at any Time after Christmas I shall
write, I shall be happy to continue it, or
any Occasion, to renew a Correspondence
with your Ladyship on any Subject, and
am happy to leave you in a full Power to
think on our part, in the same manner

I am

Very Respectfully, My Lady,
Morning to you, and many Thanks for
the favour.

My dear Lady, Good Morning to you.
I am heartily glad to hear, I never
was more than with a Todd's Bolt in all my
Days: I wonder at your Ladyship's Pa-
tience! He is an odd Man, and I shall for
ever doubt him. Adieu, my dear Lady

Remains



T. P. M. I. S.

F. R. A. T. U. M.
The University of Cambridge

